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(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, whether the Government have enquired into the truth of the allegations contained in the letter;

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government in the matter, after the receipt of the communication from Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar;

(*d*) whether the Government consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to prevent ill-treatment by the Police of under-trial prisoners; and

(*e*) whether the Government will place on the table a correct statement as to the alleged treatment of the under-trial accused referred to in Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar's letter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have called for a report from the District Magistrate, Trichinopoly.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government await the District Magistrate's report.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar:—"With reference to clause (*d*), the answer given is no answer at all. May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether Government would place the information on the table when they get it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"We have called for the information. When the Government receive the information, the suggestion will be considered"

Alleged firing at Tuticorin and at Trichinopoly during the South Indian Railway strike.

*472 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the circumstances under which a policeman resorted to firing at Tuticorin on his own authority during the Railway strike;

(*b*) the causes of the police firing later at Tuticorin;

(*c*) the causes of the police attacking and firing on an innocent crowd near a railway crossing in Trichinopoly during an accident between a train and a bus during the strike; and

(*d*) the occasions and the causes generally for police firing in several parts of the Province during the recent Railway strike?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Criminal cases arising out of these incidents are still before the Courts The Government can make no pronouncement till these have been disposed of.

(*d*) Unless the names of places where firing is alleged to have taken place are given, it is not possible to answer this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know, with reference to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), what are the criminal cases arising out of these incidents that I have mentioned, namely, police firing at Tuticorin and the police firing at Trichinopoly railway crossing which are pending? No cases are pending to the best of my knowledge?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"We have called for reports from the District Magistrates and they show that certain cases are before the courts of law."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know whether the Government have satisfied themselves that these criminal cases arose out of these incidents which I have mentioned in clauses (a), (b) and (c)?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With regard to the answer to clause (d), I have given the names of the places, viz, Tuticorin and Trichinopoly. May I know, Sir, from the Government the occasions and the causes for the police firing in those parts of the Province?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have already given an answer in connexion with the collision that took place between a motor bus and an engine in Trichinopoly. In that connexion I dealt with this question. There are some cases before the courts. So, at present, it is not possible for Government to give a reply. As soon as these cases are disposed of, Government will consider the question of making a statement."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am asking specifically with regard to firing without magisterial orders in those places."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"He has already said that regarding collision it was answered by the Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"But regarding the other firing at Tuticorin—that was without any magisterial order at all—may I ask whether the Government have made or propose to make any enquiries into what was an unlawful act and the circumstances under which the police acted as they did?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"As I said, it is not possible for me to give any answer till the cases are disposed of."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Have the Government called for a report on this specific question as to the extraordinary reasons why the police resorted to firing without a magisterial order or do they propose to do so?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The suggestion will be considered if necessary."

Revision of the pay of constables in South Kanara in consonance with the cost of living.

*473 Q.—Mr A. B. SHETTY: With reference to the answer to my question No 146 answered on 5th September 1928 regarding the revision of the pay of constables in South Kanara, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cost of living is less in South Kanara than in other districts where the constables are paid eight annas more; and

(b) if so, on what this information is based?

A.—(a) & (b) Statistics on which any reliable comparison of the cost of living in various districts may be based are not available.